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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/931,372	08/17/2001	Toney Reid Humphries II	P66814US0	1598

7590 03/26/2003

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EXAMINER

REIFSNYDER, DAVID A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1723

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/931,372

Applicant(s)

HUMPHRIES ET AL.

Examiner

David A Reifsnyder

Art Unit

1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,6,7,9,16,18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5,8,17 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) Z.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 1723

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings filed on August 17, 2001 are objected to for being clearly informal. In response to this office action, **Formal Drawings are Required**. The requirement for Formal Drawings **will not** be held in abeyance.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is too long. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b). The new abstract should be on a separate sheet of paper and have between 50 and 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 4, 6, 7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 4; the recitation of "said strips" lacks antecedent basis. (i.e. one way to correct this would be to change "said strips" to ---said at least one strip---

Art Unit: 1723

Regarding claim 6; the "a plurality of additional vertical strips mounted on the interior surface of the screen" can not be understood because the vertical strip claimed in claim 1 was not mounted to the interior surface of the screen. Therefore, the strips of claim 6 can not be additional strips.

Regarding claim 7; the recitation of "wherein said at least one vertical strip includes an elongated vertical flange clamped between outwardly extending flange side edge flanges bolted together to form said cylindrical screen" is vague and indefinite for two reasons. For one thing, it is vague and indefinite as to whether the strip's "vertical flange" is the same surface or a different surface from the vertical strip's "inclined surface" claimed in claim 1. For another thing, it is vague and indefinite as to how the outwardly extending flange side edge flanges are structurally related to the cylindrical screen.

Regarding claim 20; the recitation of "an elongated flange of said strip clamped between outwardly extending flange side edge flanges bolted together to form said cylindrical screen or screen section" is vague and indefinite as to as to how the outwardly extending flange side edge flanges are structurally related to the cylindrical screen or screen section.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 1723

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 16, 18 and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Woodson et al. (see column 3, line 54 to column 4, line 11)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-15 are allowed.

The main reason for the allowance of claims 10-15 over art is that the prior art of record fails to describe the instantly claimed dryer having a cylindrical screen and a rotor having all the limitations claimed as whole and including a **generally vertically extending deflector strip mounted on an inner surface of the screen.**

Claims 3, 5, 8, 17 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The main reason for the allowance of claim 3 over art is that the prior art of record fails to describe the instantly claimed deflector as having all the limitations claimed as whole and including **wherein said strip is mounted on said screen by a bolt having a countersunk head flush with an inner surface of said strip.**

The main reason for the allowance of claim 5 over art is that the prior art of record fails to describe the instantly claimed deflector as having all the limitations claimed as whole and including **wherein said at least one vertical deflecting strip is mounted on the interior surface of said screen.**

The main reason for the allowance of claim 8 over art is that the prior art of record fails to describe the instantly claimed deflector as having all the limitations

Art Unit: 1723

claimed as whole and including wherein said vertical strip has a lower end oriented above the lower edge of said screen and an upper end terminating adjacent an upper end of said screen.

The main reason for the allowance of claim 17 over art is that the prior art of record fails to describe the instantly claimed deflector as having all the limitations claimed as whole and including wherein said vertical strip is substantially continuous from adjacent a lower edge of said screen to adjacent an upper edge of said screen.

The main reason for the allowance of claim 19 over art is that the prior art of record fails to describe the instantly claimed centrifugal pellet dryer as having all the limitations claimed as whole and including wherein said at least one elongated deflecting strip is mounted on said screen interior surface by bolting to a mating mounting strip positioned in an aligned relation to an exterior surface of said screen or screen section.

Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The main reason for the allowance of claim 4 over art is that the prior art of record fails to describe the instantly claimed deflector as having all the limitations claimed as whole and including wherein the deflector includes at least one vertical mounting strip aligned with said vertical deflecting strip and fasteners extending through said screen to attach said strips (i.e. said at least one strip) thereto.

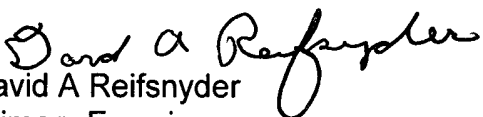
Art Unit: 1723

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A Reifsnyder whose telephone number is 1-703-308-0456. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda M Walker can be reached on 1-703-308-0457. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 1-703-872-9310 for regular communications and 1-703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 1-703-308-3601.


David A Reifsnyder
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

DAR
March 24, 2003